

NORTH LANDING RIVER MACROSITE - NORTH POCATY

SIZE: ca. 3,000 acres

BIODIVERSITY RANK: B4

LOCALITY: City of Chesapeake

QUADRANGLE: Pleasant Ridge

QUADRANGLE CODE: 3607661

LOCATION: The site encompasses a large wetland area situated west of the North Landing River and north of the Pocaty River. The western boundary coincides with the wetland bordering Route 165 and extends southward along the edge of the upland vegetation.

NATURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE SUMMARY TABLE

<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>GLOBAL STATE</u>		<u>USFWS</u>	<u>VA</u>	<u>ELEMENT</u>
		<u>RARITY</u>	<u>RARITY</u>			
		<u>RANK</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>RANK</u>
communities:						
POCOSIN		-	S1S2	-	-	U
plants:						
LOBELIA ELONGATA	ELONGATED LOBELIA	G3G5	S1	-	-	D
CHAMAECYPARIS THYOIDES	ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR	G5	S2	-	-	U

SITE DESCRIPTION: The southern portion of this site includes a forested pocosin, while the northern portion is predominantly deciduous swamp forest. Field work at this site was more or less restricted to the marshes bordering creek channels, where the rare plant, elongated lobelia (Lobelia elongata), was discovered. Much of the thickly vegetated swamp interior remains unexplored, but several reconnaissance flights over the area showed the vegetation to be in excellent condition.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The conservation planning boundary includes the community, rare plants, and a limited amount of upland buffer. Like other sites along the North Landing River, this site is integral to the protection of the entire wetland ecosystem.

THREATS: Fire is a natural and necessary process within the marsh and pocosin. Without fire, the pocosin would become very thickly vegetated and Atlantic white cedar would decrease. The canebrake rattlesnake (Crotalus horridus atricaudatus) has been reported from the general area, and if present, this species would be threatened by collection/killing.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS: Develop and implement a prescribed burning management plan to maintain the distinctive pocosin vegetation and rare plants such as Atlantic white cedar.